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Recd 14/1/57
RYDE

BOROUGH OF



RYDE, I.W.

ANNUAL REPORT

for 1955

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1955
(as constituted at 24th May, 1955)

The Mayor—Alderman G. J. Evans

Alderman Russell (<i>Chairman</i>)	Councillor Cleaver
Councillor Ramage (<i>Vice-Chm.</i>)	Councillor Lewer
Councillor Baxter	Councillor Matthews
Councillor Bourn	Councillor Read
Councillor Carleton	Councillor Sutton
Councillor Castle	Councillor White

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1955

Medical Officer of Health: D. WARREN BROWNE,†*
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector: S. DUNMORE,† M.S.I.A., A.R.S.H.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: L. N. JORDAN,† M.S.I.A.,
M.R.S.H.

Clerk: MISS D. G. BOYCE.

* *Part time Officer.*

† *Salary contribution by Exchequer Grants.*



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
5, LIND STREET,
RYDE, I.W.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Ryde Borough Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1955. As you will be aware, the Medical Officer of Health for this period was Dr. D. Warren Browne and I have therefore confined this report to the vital statistics and commentary thereon. As with 1954, it includes an appendix by your Senior Sanitary Inspector in respect of work carried out by him.

Vital Statistics

The estimated population increased by 170 to a total of 19,930. There was a slight increase in the number of live births, producing an increase in the comparative live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population of 1·3. There was a reduction of 3 in the number of stillbirths, reducing the stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births from 37·7 to 24·3.

The total number of deaths was 293, which produced a very slight increase in the comparative death rate. It is pleasing to note that once more there were no deaths from pregnancy, childbirth or abortion which, together with the fall in the stillbirth rate, reflects very favourably on the present system of ante-natal care in Ryde. Enquiries into the causes of maternal deaths and stillbirths have shown clearly that toxæmia of pregnancy is primarily responsible in this country. All deaths from this cause are not avoidable because of the lack of knowledge as to the causation of toxæmia. However, inadequate ante-natal care has been shown to be the commonest avoidable factor contributing to these deaths. The excellent co-operation between the general practitioner, hospital and local authority services in Ryde is revealed by these figures, which compare well with the rest of the country.

The death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births was more or less stationary. Deaths from measles and whooping cough for all age groups were nil. These diseases have become milder during the last few years, but one must also take into consideration the greatly improved medical services, the advent of antibiotics and sulphonamides and the increasing number of immunisations against whooping cough.

Deaths from cancer of all ages increased from 49 to 52. It is significant that there were 9 deaths from lung cancer compared with 2 the year before. There has been much written about research into the causes of this, and if numbers continue to increase, it might be desirable for Ryde to start its own preventive campaign for elimination of possible causative factors and for the promotion of early diagnosis and treatment. It is pleasing to see that there were no deaths from respiratory tuberculosis compared with 3 in the preceding year, and once again we must thank recent advances in treatment for this.

There were no deaths from diphtheria and no cases were notified, but this does not mean that the campaign for immunisation should be given less attention. Children may receive injections against both whooping cough and diphtheria in surgeries and clinics.

Deaths from poliomyelitis were nil and only 2 cases were notified, one of which was non-paralytic. It is hoped that the numbers will be still further reduced when vaccination against the disease has been fully established. Notifications for both were low compared with England and Wales.

Deaths from diseases of the heart and circulation, such as coronary disease, high blood pressure and apoplexy, continue to be on a high level in the male, but total figures show a slight decrease from 165 to 155. The level is in keeping with the rest of the country where figures reflect the increasing stress of life.

Motor vehicle accidents continued to be at a low level and in fact there were three times as many suicides.

Infectious Diseases

There was an increase from 14 to 23 in cases of scarlet fever which was not quite typical of the general trend, although the numbers were still small when compared with



measles of which there were 143 cases and whooping cough of which there were 64. Only 2 each of these cases were admitted to hospital. There were 6 cases of pneumonia. There were no cases of dysentery or food poisoning notified, which is very satisfactory considering the large amount of extra catering which is always done in the summer for holiday-makers.

Tuberculosis

There was a decline from 18 to 9 in the total number of new cases of tuberculosis, pulmonary and non-pulmonary, notified. Ryde had only 30 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis per 100,000 population, whereas there were 77 for England and Wales. Figures for other forms of the disease were about the same. How much of this decline may be attributed to the campaign, which was started in 1954, for testing and vaccination of susceptible school leavers with B.C.G., is difficult to say, and the true value will take some years to assess. However, of the 5 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, 3 were under 15, and it would appear from this that it is still necessary to guard against any milk which is liable to contain live bovine tubercle bacilli, especially with young consumers.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. MAXWELL BROWNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS

(1) GENERAL

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	7,876
No. of inhabited houses according to rate books (as at 31/3/56)	...	...	...	...	...	6,460
Rateable value (as at 31/3/56)	...	...	...	...	...	£173,999
Sum represented by 1d. rate (as at 31/3/56)	...	...	...	...	...	£667
Rainfall	...	...	...	...	...	26·57 inches
Sunshine	...	...	...	...	...	1862·8 hours

(2) VITAL

Population (Registrar's Figure)	...	...	...	19,930
BIRTHS	M.	F.		
No. of live legitimate births	138	127	...	265
No. of live illegitimate births	6	10	...	16
Live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	...	14·1
Comparative factor (births)	...	...	...	1·09
Comparative Birth Rate	...	...	...	15·4
Live Birth Rate England and Wales	...	...	...	15·0
	M.	F.		
No. of legitimate stillbirths	5	2	...	7
No. of illegitimate stillbirths	—	—	...	—
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births				24·3
DEATHS	M.	F.		
Total number of deaths	149	144	...	293
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	14·7
Comparative factor (deaths)	...	...	...	0·71
Comparative death rate	...	...	...	10·4
Death rate England and Wales	...	...	...	11·7
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 (live and still births)	...	...	...	Nil
No. of deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year of age	M.	F.		
	6	3	...	9
No. of deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year of age	—	1	...	1
Death rate all infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	35·6
Death rate legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	34·0
Death rate illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	62·5
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	52

CAUSES OF DEATH

CAUSE	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, respiratory	— (3)	— (—)
Tuberculosis, other	— (—)	1 (—)
Syphilitic disease	1 (—)	— (—)
Diphtheria	— (—)	— (—)
Whooping Cough	— (—)	— (—)
Meningococcal infections	— (—)	— (—)
Acute Poliomyelitis	— (—)	— (—)
Measles	— (—)	— (—)
Other infective and parasitic diseases	— (—)	— (—)
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	2 (4)	6 (5)
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8 (1)	1 (1)
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	— (—)	6 (3)
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	— (—)	1 (3)
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13 (19)	12 (13)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	— (—)	3 (—)
Diabetes	— (—)	1 (1)
Vascular lesions of nervous system	17 (14)	21 (38)
Coronary disease, angina	20 (17)	11 (5)
Hypertension with heart disease ...	3 (5)	1 (8)
Other heart disease	29 (16)	41 (50)
Other circulatory disease ...	5 (7)	7 (5)
Influenza	2 (—)	1 (—)
Pneumonia	9 (10)	5 (2)
Bronchitis	7 (9)	4 (—)
Other diseases of respiratory system	4 (3)	1 (—)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1 (4)	2 (—)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1 (—)	1 (—)
Nephritis and nephrosis	3 (2)	— (4)
Hyperplasia of prostate	1 (2)	— (—)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	— (—)	— (—)
Congenital malformations	3 (3)	1 (1)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15 (5)	12 (14)
Motor vehicle accidents	1 (1)	— (—)
All other accidents	2 (3)	4 (4)
Suicide	2 (—)	1 (—)
Homicide and operations of war	— (—)	— (—)
ALL CAUSES	149 (128)	144 (157)

N.B.—Figures for 1954 are entered in brackets.

Prevalence of Infectious and other Diseases.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	23	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (In- fective)	—	—	—
Measles	143	2	—
Whooping Cough ...	64	2	—
Ophthalmia			
Neonatorum	—	—	—
Pneumonia	6	1	1
Dysentery	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis			
(Paralytic)	1	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis			
(Non-Paralytic) ...	1	1	—
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	6	5	—
Tuberculosis			
(Meninges & C.N.S.)	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Other)	2	2	—
Totals ...	247	14	1

Age at Date of Notification

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Malaria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Meningococcal Infection	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	Tuberculosis (Meninges & C.N.S.)	Tuberculosis (Other)
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	2	—	—	—	—	—	7	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	17	—	—	—	—	—	33	70	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
10	3	—	—	—	1	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	23	—	—	—	6	1	64	143	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	6	—	2

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

(a)	Total number of outbreaks	...	...	...	None
(b)	Number of single cases	...	...	...	None
(c)	Number of deaths	...	...	...	None

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases Return from Head Teachers of Schools

Mumps	...	...	...	...	14
Chicken Pox		...	...	...	95
German Measles			...	...	4
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	3
Influenza and Influenzal Colds					11
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	6
					133

Tuberculosis, 1955

AGE PERIODS			Totals	New Cases				Totals	Deaths			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F
0 and under	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1 „ „	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
5 „ „	10	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	
10 „ „	15	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
15 „ „	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
20 „ „	25	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
25 „ „	35	9	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
35 „ „	45	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
45 „ „	55	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
55 „ „	65	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	
65 „ „	75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
75 and over		2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	...†	21	6	10	2	3	1	—	—	—	1	

†Included in this total are eleven transfers from the mainland, one case in which the death return gave the first information, and one old case who returned to the Island.

Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Acts, 1944

Number of samples taken during 1955	...	...	107
Number of samples found to be T.B. positive	...	Nil	
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	...	...	10

Factories Act, 1937.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1955, for the Borough of Ryde, in the County of the Isle of Wight.

Part I of the Act

1.—Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16	18	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	110	34	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total ...	126	52	2	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ...					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	3	2	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	1	1	—	—	—
Total ...	5	4	—	3	—

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Ryde Borough Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my sixth Annual Report as your Senior Sanitary Inspector, and I propose to again follow the lines of my previous reports, which have, with the approval of your Medical Officer of Health, been separate, although, of course, a part of his Report.

Where figures appear in brackets they are those for 1954 and are given to enable comparisons to be made.

There have been no Departmental staff changes, which is an important factor in the smooth running of the day to day work.

The Report is set out in four sections, as follows :—

Section I—Sanitary Circumstances

Complaints

378 (400) complaints were received and dealt with during the year. It is of some slight interest that this annual figure is nearly constant.

Water Supply

A very satisfactory supply of water has been maintained throughout the Borough by the I.W. Water Board during the year. The Knighton works, supplemented by the smaller Ashey plant, which, prior to the Board's formation in 1951, were this Borough's undertakings, have been the principal suppliers, and they have been supplemented when necessary by supplies from Sandown, which is linked to the Ryde mains.

Early in the year an arrangement was reached with the Board's Engineer for me to take samples for bacteriological examination at the Knighton and Ashey sources, as well as from mains points throughout the Borough, and subsequently 103 (32) samples were taken. All the 24 samples taken from Knighton were very satisfactory, whilst two of the 14 taken from Ashey were suspicious, but subsequent check samples proved satisfactory. Of the 65 mains samples, all were

satisfactory except two, but subsequent check samples proved satisfactory in these cases also.

Every dwellinghouse in the Borough is on the piped mains supply.

Drainage

No changes have taken place in the Borough's drainage system during the year, and I feel it necessary to again emphasise the comments made in my previous reports concerning the disposal of the Borough's sewage, which discharges, untreated, through six main outfalls into the Solent beyond low water. Most of these sewers and outfalls are under considerable strain, especially in storm periods, and repair works become increasingly frequent.

The small plant serving Havenstreet deals adequately and satisfactorily with the sewage there. Replacement of the obsolete St. Helens works is under consideration.

The building of private houses has, of course, continued, especially in the lesser-developed districts, where I have advocated the necessity for sewer extensions or new sewers. It is problematical whether this should be done unless the main sewers are enlarged or duplicated, so in order to provide drainage disposal, septic tanks have to be substituted. These are frequently a source of trouble and complaint to my Department, since disposal of the effluent, where it has to soak through our clay subsoil, is very limited. The Council operates a modern mechanical emptier to empty the septic tanks and cesspools, and it is also used to cleanse and flush street gullies throughout the district.

Public Cleansing

This service is operated by the Borough Surveyor's Department. A weekly collection was maintained throughout the Borough, and a trade refuse collection, in addition, for business premises. The quantity of refuse collected continued to rise, and this year reached the high figure of 11,150 tons, all of which had to be transported to the Nettlestone tip, where the problem of efficient disposal, especially in the summer season, due to insufficient covering material, was a major one. To the various problems of sanitary nuisances under such conditions must be added the one of fire, which,

whilst it may reduce the volume of refuse, is a slow process, can be extremely offensive, and must be avoided.

Salvage from refuse grows in importance, especially from the viewpoint of financial gain, and concentration on this aspect was further stepped up, resulting in the sale of 229 tons of paper, which produced £2,042, added to which rags and mixed metals raised a further £205. The Council operates an incentive bonus scheme for the collectors.

Infectious Disease

No terminal disinfection has been required, and consequently the steam disinfector has not been called upon, although it is maintained in good working order should it be required.

Caravans and Camping

This matter, in contrast to many similar districts, does not provide any real or difficult problem.

Six caravans were again licensed, of which only two were occupied throughout the year, and both of these are likely to be discontinued as such during the coming year. The other four were occupied only as seasonal dwellings during the summer months.

Of the six licensed camping sites, one has 20 caravans, only, one has 15 caravans, a tentage area, and also permanent, luxury, brick-built chalets, one has 12 caravans and a tentage area, and the remainder have tentage areas only. All are well equipped and have adequate sanitary accommodation and washing facilities.

In addition, the two permanent holiday camps have again been occupied almost to capacity throughout their operational period.

The excellent summer weather encouraged camping on a large scale, and inspections of camps were made wherever they were located. Advice was generally only necessary to individuals with little previous camping experience.

Liaison with the County Planning Officer on all matters affecting caravans and camping sites has continued as in previous years.

Swimming Pools

There are only two open-air, freshwater swimming-pools, which are at the two holiday camps at Puckpool, and are fully equipped with purification plant. The Puckpool Camp pool by courtesy of the owners, is used without charge by all the local schools and a number of organisations such as the Life Guards, etc.

Three samples were taken from the pools and submitted for bacteriological examination, and found to be very satisfactory.

Vermin

(a) 49 (37) premises were treated to destroy vermin. There were three cases of bug infestation, and the remaining treatments were carried out in respect of flies, fleas, cockroaches and ants.

(b) 109 complaints of rats and mice infestation were received by the Department during the 12 months ended 31st March, 1956, and these were passed to and dealt with by the County Rodent Officer, who operates under the control of the I.W. (Rodent Destruction) Joint Committee, comprising representatives and sanitary inspectors of each constituent local authority. Visits were made to 25 Council properties, 865 dwellinghouses, 46 agricultural premises and 272 business and industrial premises, which resulted in the discovery of 2 major and 156 minor rat infestations. 85 premises with mice infestations were also dealt with. "Block" control of the Council's sewers was carried out by systematic inspection.

Shops Act, 1950

The Department's register for 1955 records 436 (441) shops in the Borough, the greater proportion of which are small establishments. 192 (227) inspections were made.

Factories Act, 1937

There were 126 (123) premises on the register on the 31st December, comprising 110 power factories and 16 non-power factories. Since the area is non-industrial, the premises are mainly in the nature of small businesses. 52 inspections were made, and 5 contraventions found, four of which were remedied by informal notice before the end of the year.

Summary of Inspections and Visits

Complaints	120
Public Health Act	145
Re-Visits to Premises under Notice—Public Health Act	137
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc. ...	307
Work in Progress	163
Insanitary Houses and Rooms	9
Verminous Premises or Rooms	90
National Assistance Act	15
Infectious Diseases	8
Drainage Inspections and Tests	261
Septic Tanks, Cesspools, etc.	39
Camping Sites, Caravans, Tents and Houseboats	60
Stables, Piggeries, Poultry, etc.	17
Factories, with Power	34
Factories, without Power	18
Workplaces	5
Places of Entertainment	4
Shops Act	192
Schools	2
Foreshores, Streams, etc.	15
Vacant Land and Dumps	46
Common Yards and Passages	6
Swimming Pools	8
Offensive Trades	3
Smoke Nuisances	1
Rodent Infestations	1
Dangerous Structures	56
Miscellaneous Visits	132

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied

Drains Cleared of Obstructions	39
Drains Repaired or Reconstructed	40
Inspection Chambers Provided or Repaired ...	18
Disposal Plants Installed or Repaired	4
Septic Tanks, etc., Cleansed or Repaired ...	2
W.C's Cleansed	2
Offensive, etc., Accumulations Removed ...	7
Cellars Cleared after Flooding	3
Contraventions Remedied in Factories and Work-places	4
Contraventions Remedied in Shops	1

Contraventions Remedied in Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Smoke Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dangerous Structures Made Safe or Demolished							13

Section II—Housing

At the end of the year the Housing Manager's list of applicants stood at 272 (358), which must be considered a very satisfactory reduction over the year, but there has been little slowing up of new applicants, and it would seem that unless the present rate of building is maintained the waiting list will quickly reverse its present trend. The present list of applicants includes 51 applications for old persons' flatlets.

During the year under review, the Council completed 18 (31) houses, which brings the total of post-war houses to 329 and the overall total to 541. At the end of the year a further 52 were under construction. In addition, 48 new private houses were erected, and also four existing houses were converted to provide 13 units.

In accordance with the requirements of Section I of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, 95 cottage properties were surveyed to ascertain their standard of fitness for human habitation, and, after due consideration, it was decided that 34 of these were of such a standard as to require demolition within five years, and that all of these could be dealt with under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, and no Clearance Orders would be necessary. The 61 outstanding were found to be structurally sound, but generally require considerable repairs and improvements. They will undoubtedly have to serve as housing units for quite a number of years yet.

The incentives offered to owners in the new Housing Repairs and Rents Act have met with very limited response, most owners preferring to accept present rents rather than incur the risk of receiving a Certificate of Disrepair following a rent increase demand. During the year 12 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received, and 11 Certificates were duly issued. Subsequently, following the completion of necessary repairs, 5 of these Certificates were revoked.

The part of the Act designed to encourage improvements to existing dwellinghouses has also largely failed, in that owners of tenanted properties have shown little inclination

to improve their properties to bring them up to a good and modern standard. During the year 48 applications for Improvement Grants were made to the Local Authority, 20 of which had been approved by December 31st. The applicants were, in all cases, owner-occupiers.

Therefore, the housing situation as it affects the man who rents his cottage has not altered, and recourse to the Health Department to get repairs done has been as frequent as in past years. Owners and agents, despite ever rising costs of repairs, particularly labour costs, have generally complied with informal notices in commendable fashion: only 14 statutory notices had to be served, and no Court proceedings ensued.

Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the Year

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	429
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	743
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	95
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	95
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	34

Details of Inspections, Visits, etc.

Complaints	121
Public Health Act	143
Re-Visits to Premises under Notice—Public Health Act	263
Housing Acts	286
Re-Visits to Premises under Notice—Housing Acts	51
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc. ...	234
Water Samples	110
Overcrowding	8
Miscellaneous	42

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied

Chimneys and Stacks Repaired	...	...	...	8
Ceilings Repaired, Renewed or Provided			...	17
Dampness Abated	...	...	...	42
Doors Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	14
Roofs Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	52
Eaves Gutters Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	18
Rainwater Pipes Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	3
Fireplaces Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	11
Floors Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	22
Sinks Provided	...	...	...	1
Sinks repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	2
Waste Pipes Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	1
New Bathrooms Provided	...	...	...	6
Stairs Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	2
Windows Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	16
Sashcords Provided or Renewed		...	...	11
Walls (Internal) Repaired	...	...	...	19
Walls (External) Re-pointed or Repaired			...	16
New W.C's Provided	...	...	...	9
W.C. Compartments Repaired	...	...	...	10
W.C. Pedestals Provided	...	...	...	19
W.C. Cisterns Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	11
Water Supplies Provided or Services Repaired	...			5
Ventilation Provided	...	...	...	1
Natural Lighting Improved		...	...	2
New Dustbins Provided	...	...	...	4

Section III—Inspection and Supervision of Food

At the end of the year there were 295 (294) food premises (excluding licensed premises) operating in the Borough.

Clean Food

Although the numerous other duties of the Department have absorbed much of the time available for inspection duties, there has been no let-up in our efforts to ensure that the high standards, generally speaking, reached by all the people engaged in the foods trade shall be maintained.

It should be noted that Ryde is a seaside resort which caters for thousands of resident visitors, and, also, because of its proximity to the mainland, receives many thousands of day trippers who feed in the town, and it is also a meals stop for the fleet of coaches which daily tour the Island

throughout the summer. Bearing this in mind, special attention has been paid to the cafes, etc., patronised by these visitors. It will be appreciated that the proprietors have a considerable problem in these days of labour shortages in finding and keeping seasonal employees of a type who are interested enough to concern themselves about the food hygiene reputation of their employer and his premises. However, the Trade has maintained a good standard and met its labour problems to some extent by further installations of mechanical equipment and switching to the self-service system.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

Meat Inspection

There was no slaughtering of animals carried out within the Borough, all animals being slaughtered and inspected elsewhere prior to delivery and sale. The quality of home-killed meat from the Island or nearby mainland slaughter-houses has been excellent: routine inspections have been made and condemnations confined entirely to imported meat.

The following quantities of meat were condemned as unfit :—

Meat (Imported)	...	...	...	19 cwt. 53 lb.
Poultry	...	...	...	6 lb.
Rabbits	...	...	...	36 lb.
Fish	...	...	...	19½ stones

Condemned Foods, etc.

The quantity of tinned and packed foods condemned during the year has shown a marked decrease, and has actually more than halved in the last two years. I consider that this is largely due to the disappearance of inferior varieties of tinned foods, especially from some European countries, and their replacement by adequate supplies of a wide variety by reputable manufacturers, which discriminating shop-keepers prefer to stock. Undoubtedly, too, now that almost all food premises are equipped with refrigerated storage, wastage has been further reduced.

The following items of food were found to be unfit for human consumption, and condemned :—

Bacon	...	...	...	29½lb.
Cooked Meats	...	...	...	18 lb.
Fish Cakes	...	...	...	10 lb. (approx.)

Cheese	...	...	...	...	56 lb.
Margarine	...	...	...	...	28 lb.
Spray-Dried Egg	...	...	...	...	125 lb.
Frozen Whole Egg	...	...	...	...	84 lb.
Dried Fruit (Prunes)	...	...	...	...	9 lb.
Cake	...	...	...	...	42½ lb.
Sweets	...	...	...	...	14 lb.
Meat, Milk, Fruit, Vegetables, Fish, etc.	...	...	...	...	718 (1,061) tins, jars and bottles.
Eggs	...	...	...	...	90
Meat Pies	...	...	...	...	33 (each 6 oz.)

Food Analysis

The County Council Sampling Officers have had a busy year within the Ryde Borough, where they have taken 61 samples and submitted them for analysis. The under-mentioned list indicates the wide range of foods covered :—

Soup	...	...	...	3	Dessicated Coconut	1	
Malt Loaf	...	...	...	1	Chocolate Roll	...	1
Aspirin Tablets (B.P.)				1	Table Jelly	...	1
Almond Flavouring	...			1	Creamed Rice	...	1
Chocolate Biscuits	...			1	Self-raising Flour		1
Spirits	...	...	...	7	Mayonnaise	...	1
Lard	...	...	...	2	Vinegar	...	1
Beef Suet	...	...	...	3	Cream	...	1
Plain Flour	...	...	...	1	Stewed Steak	...	1
Butter	...	...	...	2	Cream Cheese	...	1
Instant Pudding			...	1	Tomato Paste	...	1
Margarine	...	...	...	4	Ice-Cream	...	5
Butter-scotch Sweets	...			1	Milk	...	14
Baby Cereal	...	...	...	2			
Liqueur Chocolates	...			1			

Remarks

Unsatisfactory samples :—

Butter-scotch Sweets	1	} Incorrectly labelled.
Baby Cereal	2	

Milk Supplies

The number of distributors registered is 12, which is one more than last year.

One dairyman has a small pasteurising (Holder) plant, and this is licensed by the County Council, and inspections of this plant are carried out on their behalf.

The following registrations and licences were operative during the year :—

Registration as Distributor of Milk	12
Registration of Premises used as a Dairy	10
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation " Tuberculin Tested "	11
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation " Pasteurised "	9

Ice-Cream

Ice-cream registrations for storage and sale stand at 126, and this figure in a Borough the size of Ryde indicates the quantity of this food now consumed. Three premises were registered for manufacture.

During the year 26 informal samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and resulted as follows :—

<i>Grades</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>III</i>	<i>IV</i>
	16	1	2	7

The Grade III and IV samples were taken at the local factories, and were traced to faults in equipment at various stages of manufacture. Subsequent check samples were then satisfactory.

Bakehouses

The number of bakehouses in operation remained at 16. None is underground. Regular routine inspections were made.

Licensed Premises

The licensed premises figure of 64 is again unchanged, and these premises received our routine inspections. The hygiene standards in all respects have steadily improved over the past six years to such an extent that this year only a small number of minor defects were required to be remedied.

Details of Inspections, Visits, etc.

Complaints	10
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc. ...	114
Re-Visits to Premises under Notice—Food & Drugs Act	25
Butchers' Shops	44
Fishmongers and Poulterers	16

Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Grocers and Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Dairy Farms	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Restaurants and Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Food Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Food Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Food Enforcement	...	...	...	...	...	...	92
Infestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	24

Number of Food Premises in which Contraventions Remedied

Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Grocers and Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Restaurants and Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Summary of Notices Served (Sections I, II and III)

Public Health Act (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	131
Public Health Act (Formal)	...	...	...	...	...	14
Housing Act (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	4
Housing Act (Formal)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Factories Act (Mechanical Power)	...	...	...	...	...	3
Factories Act (Non-Power)	...	...	...	...	...	—
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	3
Food & Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	...	27

Section IV—Miscellaneous

In addition to the duties carried out in accordance with Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935-51, the sanitary inspectors administer the following duties :—

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928

During the licensing year 1955-56, commencing 1st May, 37 premises were licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit,

and the total amount for which these licences were issued was 36,400 gallons, which is an increase of 800 gallons. 3 licences to store 300 gallons of petroleum mixtures were also issued. £25 10s. 0d. in fees was paid to the local authority for the necessary licences. 50 visits were made to the garages and petroleum stores for the purpose of ascertaining that the Act and Regulations were being complied with. There was one new installation, comprising three new storage tanks and pumps, at a new garage which replaced an older structure, and the two tanks and pumps there were removed.

Shops Act—Closing Hours

The Department is responsible for the compliance with "hours of closing" by shops within the Borough, as required by the Shops Act and several operative Closing Orders made by the Council.

Hackney Carriages and Drivers

50 (45) hackney carriages were licensed during the licensing year 1955/56, commencing 1st May. The Council's Byelaws made in respect of such vehicles are administered by the Health Department, and 100 inspections and visits were made.

The drivers of these vehicles are also subject to similar control, and 45 were issued with hackney carriage drivers' licences during the licensing year.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Three premises have been licensed as pet shops, and these have been operated in accordance with their conditions of licence.

Lectures, etc.

By arrangement with the Hospital Authorities, lectures and demonstrations on public health work have again been given throughout the year to trainee nurses preparing for their S.R.N. examinations. These were carried out by Mr. Jordan.

In concluding, I would like to again record my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their confidence, and to the Medical Officer of Health, other Chief Officers and all members of the Council's staff for their close co-operation, and, in particular, my thanks go to Mr. Jordan and Miss Boyce for their whole-hearted support throughout the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

STANLEY DUNMORE,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.



